

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

FACT SHEET

**APPROVE EXPENDITURES FOR THE
HOPE AND RECOVERY: EMPOWERING OUR LIVES CONFERENCES
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval to expend funds to host and conduct three Hope and Recovery: Empowering Our Lives Conferences and workshops to be held on August 23, 2011, September 13, 2011, and October 4, 2011, to address stigma and discrimination issues related to mental illness.

REQUEST

1. Authorize Department of Mental Health (DMH) to expend funds to host and conduct the Asian Pacific Islander Hope and Recovery: Empowering Our Lives Conference to be held on August 23, 2011, at an estimated cost of \$41,000, and authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to execute an Agreement with the California Endowment Center for space and catering services at an estimated cost of \$11,000, fully funded by State Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) revenue.
2. Authorize DMH to expend funds to host and conduct the Esperanza Hope and Recovery: Empowering Our Lives Conference to be held on September 13, 2011, at an estimated cost of \$46,500, and authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to execute an Agreement with the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel for space and catering at an estimated cost of \$34,000, fully funded by State MHSA revenue.
3. Authorize DMH to expend funds to host and conduct the Hope & Recovery: Empowering Our Lives Conference in English to be held on October 4, 2011, at an estimated cost of \$53,000, and authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to execute an Agreement with the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel for space and catering services at an estimated cost of \$37,500, fully funded by State MHSA revenue.
4. Authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to sign substantially similar Agreements with similar conferences sites for catering services for five subsequent annual Hope and Recovery: Empowering Our Lives Conferences through Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-16 not to exceed a total amount of \$55,000 per event, with a total maximum per year amount of \$165,000, subject to review and

approval by County Counsel and notice to your Board and the Chief Executive Office (CEO).

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

Since 1997, DMH has sponsored the Hope and Recovery: Empowering Our Lives Conferences to provide strategies for recovery from mental illness to the general consumer community and those representing underserved groups.

In order to combat stigma and discrimination, the State of California released funding to the counties under the MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Early Start Stigma and Discrimination Project to allow counties to initiate activity on three statewide initiatives, including reducing the stigma associated with mental illness and addressing discrimination issues affecting persons with mental illness.

Two out of the three conferences will be targeted to underserved communities, Latinos and Asian Pacific Islanders, and will be delivered in their threshold languages. The third conference will be conducted in English.

Approval of the recommended actions will also enable DMH to continue the annual conferences in future years, only after review and approval by County Counsel and notification to your Board and CEO.

BACKGROUND

The Hope and Recovery Conferences have been presented annually for 13 years with approximately 750 attendees for each of the Asian Pacific Islanders and Esperanza Hope and Recovery Conferences and up to 600 attendees for the English Hope and Recovery Conference attending each year. The conferences are open to mental health clients with special outreach to board and care programs, sober living hospitalized patients, and full service partnership clients. In addition, parents and family members of clients and mental health staff attend the conferences to ensure support and recovery.

A committee, composed of consumers, contract providers and DMH administrative staff, determined that the California Endowment Center and the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel were the preferred locations based on availability, size of accommodations, and ease of both auto and public transportation for presenters, volunteers, employees, and participants. In lieu of posting on the web, DMH solicited quotes from various venues that met selection requirements for the conferences.

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APPROVED BY:

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Gt:Hope&Recovery Conference